

MEMORANDUM
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7979

DATE: September 2006
TO: Families of Children with Special Needs
FROM: Mary Marin, Executive Director, Parent Participation Program (PPP)
Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) Division
SUBJECT: Heart-to-Heart Information Updates

From time to time, we've heard from families that our name --the Parent Participation Program-- is confusing. Many families referred to us don't understand, at first, that we focus on special health care needs of children, adolescents and young adults.

In response, we put a lot of thought into describing what we do. We think we've come up with the right words. Starting Oct. 1 we have a new name:

The *Parent Participation Program* becomes the
Family Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs.
It includes the *Family Support Network of Michigan* and the *Family to Family Health Information and Education Center*.

CSHCS staff and advisory committee members agree that our new name reflects our broad work:

- Encourage and facilitate family and client participation in program development
- Expand parent participation (support parenting, advisory committees, partnering with other family centered programs)
- Encourage and facilitate family-to-family support and communication
- Disseminate information (by phone, documents, presentations, etc.)
- Provide Training/Education for families and others
- Model and teach the importance of the family-centered approach to service delivery
- Manage funds for family educational opportunities (scholarships, grants, etc.)
- Serve as coordinating partner of Michigan's Family to Family Health Information and Education Center

In addition, our new name aligns with the federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau's broad and inclusive term, "children and youth with special health care needs." Most importantly, our section's new name puts "family" first.

The description *Parent Participation Program* (PPP) fit when it was conceived twenty years ago. Since then, our expanded roles have outgrown that title.

Despite the name change, families can still reach us through the CSHCS Family Phone Line: 1-800-359-3722.

PPP Update

PPP continues to administer **scholarships to help parents attend a conference related to the diagnosis, condition or treatment of their child's special health need.** The scholarships are made possible by the generosity of the

Children with Special Needs Fund.

The next round of scholarship application review starts Oct. 1. For an application, families may call the CSHCS Family Phone Line. Help with completing the application is available from

the CSHCS office in every local health department (LHD).

During CSHCS renewal contact, we hope that LHDs are reminding families of the scholarship opportunity plus other PPP services, such as information on transition to adulthood and this newsletter. We do not mail to all 30,000

families enrolled in CSHCS. A sample *Update* is included in each information packet. In turn, we mail to families who tell us they want to subscribe.

Also, we archive the *Update* for download at www.michigan.gov/cshcs. Another delivery option is to get the newsletter via email. Families or LHDs may request email delivery by writing to ppp@michigan.gov.♥

Resource

A Genesee County mother wants to donate a *new child-size walker and wheelchair*. It is outgrown but never was used by her son. To reach the mom, phone the CSHCS Family Phone Line, 1-800-359-3722.♥

Events

The *Michigan Family to Family Health Information and Education Center* continues its training series:

■ **Health and Education Training** is set from 1 to 4:30 p.m. on **Sept. 21** in **Grand Rapids** and on **Oct. 30** in **Flint**. It provides parents and professionals with basic information to plan and advocate for a child's health and education needs. Topics include types of public health care, special education law and Michigan rules, health preparedness resources and more.

■ **In Health Resource Support Parent Training**, parents of children with

special needs learn how to support their peers, primarily by phone. A session takes place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., **Oct. 7**, in **Cadillac**. Presenters include representatives of the *Citizens Alliance to Uphold Special Education (CAUSE)*, the *MDCH Hereditary Disorders Program*, *Michigan Protection and Advocacy Services*, and the *Social Security Administration*.

For details or to sign up, phone our CSHCS Family Phone Line at 1-800-359-3722. PPP is the Center's coordinating partner.♥

Taking a Look at Autism 2006 is set for **Nov. 2 - 3** in **Okemos**. The free conference includes 12 speakers, information displays and disability products. Sponsor is the *Autism Foundation of Ingham County*. For details, reach event organizer Lori Swan at (517) 655-1895 [home] or at (517) 896-3292 [cell].♥

Applause

The *Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute* selects **Angels in Adoption** across the country. This year's honorees include **Kent County parents Harold and Jan Woods**. The *Institute* will honor them at its Sept. 20 gala in Washington, DC. Foster/adoptive parents since 1971, the Woods have taken in more than 50 children with special needs. Their accomplishments include advocating strongly for children with special needs

and teaming with local legislators to educate the public about the impact of Shaken Baby Syndrome.♥

The Parent Participation Program (PPP) is a section of the Children's Special Health Care Services Division (CSHCS) of the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH).

CSHCS is part of MDCH's Bureau of Children and Family Programs. CSHCS primarily provides medical specialty care to children with a qualifying diagnosis. PPP serves families of all children with special needs. The Family Support Network of Michigan (FSN) is PPP's parent-to-parent support arm.

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CSHCS Family Phone Line
1-800-359-3722
8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday – Friday

CSHCS and this *Update* online
www.michigan.gov/cshcs

Free online course on CSHCS
www.training.mihealth.org

Events and Resources are compiled by PPP from a variety of sources. A listing does not denote endorsement.

If you receive multiple copies of this memo by mail, please let us know. To add your name to our postal mailing list or to remove it, *families* may call our CSHCS Family Phone Line or send e-mail to ppp@michigan.gov. Others, phone (313) 456-4381 or send e-mail to ppp@michigan.gov.

Dose of Humor

From author Mark Twain

The difference between the right word and the almost right word is like the difference between lightning and the lightning bug.♥